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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3871

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SENSITIVE

SIPDIS
ISN/NESS FOR DELABARRE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ENRG ETTC KNNP KSCA TRGY GM

SUBJECT: GERMANY TO REVIEW PERMITS FOR RETURN OF LOW LEVEL
RADIOACTIVE WASTE

REF: A. STATE 35774
1B. 03BERLIN2979

¶1. (SBU) Econoff met with Joerg Polster, German MFA desk officer for International Nuclear Energy to discuss issues raised in Ref A. Polster stated he was not familiar with the issue, as it predated his tenure in his current position by several years. As the German MFA point of contact, per Ref B, was the "Office of Civilian Energy", Polster agreed that his office had responsibility for the issue. Polster stated that he would consult with his colleagues, review the history of this matter and advise on the future of the permits.

¶2. (SBU) Polster also noted that, in 2003, Germany's ruling coalition (Social Democrats - Greens) was more liberal than today's Social Democrat - Christian Democrat coalition. Based on that, he opined that it should be at least as easy to get government permits for this program today as in 2003. He further advised caution against calling the subject materials "waste" or "tailings", as these are "magic words" that might cause unwanted scrutiny, recommending instead "glass", "ash" or "residue".

¶3. (SBU) Polster stated he would convey the results of his consultations to Econoff when they are available. Post will report further on this septel.

Koenig